

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCEM-02 EB-11

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SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 INT-08 DRC-01 /204 W

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R 190920Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WSHDC 6898

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABU

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A.

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, OPEC

SUBJ: MITI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL OIL SITUATION

SUMMARY: IN SEPT 17 SPEECH, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MITI ENERGY AND RESOURCES AGENCY, SAID JAPAN WAS BEING PRESSED BY US, UK, AND NETHERLANDS TO FORM OIL-CONSUMER NATIONS UNIOF. HOWEVER, HE SAID, JAPAN MUST MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH MAJORS AND OPEC. IF MAJORS SEEK JAPANESE SUPPORT, JAPAN WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REPLY THAT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPORT EITHER OF TWO SIDES. END SUMMARY.

1. EIJI YAMAGATA, NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MITI ENERGY AND RESOURCES AGENCY, GAVE SPEECH ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SITUATION AND JAPAN'S ROLE WITHIN IT BEFORE THE MODERNIZATION ASSOCIATION IN TOKYO ON SEPT 17. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THAT SPEECH (BASED ON PRESS REPORTS).

A. IN REGARD TO ENERGY PROBLEM, YAMAGATA SAID JAPAN HAS BEEN DRIVEN INTO A SERIOUS SITUATION IN WHICH IT MUST URGENTLY DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICY. MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND OPEC ARE IN STATE OF "VIOLENT COLLISION." AT THE RECENT OECD MEETING IN PARIS IT IS SAID, THAT US, BRITISH AND DUTCH DELEGATES STRONGLY CALLED ON JAPAN, WEST GERMANY, AND ITALY AND OTHER CONSUMER NATIONS TO FORM AN "OIL-CONSUMER NATIONS UNION." THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO REQUESTED THAT OIL NOT BE PURCHASED FROM LIBYA AND THAT OIL TECHNICIANS SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO LIBYA.

B. JAPAN REGARDS COOPERATION AS THE BASIS OF ITS ENERGY POLICY. IN OTHER WORDS, JAPAN MUST MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH BOTH MAJOR OIL COMPANIES AND OPEC. IF THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES ASK JAPAN TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION,
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IT WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REPLY THAT "JAPAN FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPORT EITHER OF THE TWO SIDES." JAPAN SHOULD FIRMLY MAINTAIN ITS MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD COURSE, YAMAGATA STRESSED.

C. WITH REGARD TO WHAT JAPAN SHOULD DO IN AN EMERGENCY OIL SHORTAGE SITUATION, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PASSING LAWS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CON-

SUMPTION RESTRICTIONS. THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH AN ENERGY POLICY LIAISON COMMITTEE WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS WELL AS OTHER AGENCIES. ALSO IT IS NECESSARY TO SET UP A PRIVATE ENERGY POLICY BOARD, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE BETTER GOVERNMENT-INDUSTRY COMMUNICATION OF ENERGY PROBLEMS.

2. COMMENT: YAMAGATA'S REMARKS REFLECT ACUTE JAPANESE DILEMMA AS TO HOW TO AVOID OFFENDING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, WHO HANDLE BULK OF JAPANESE OIL IMPORTS, WHILE AT SAME TIME NOT DAMAGING RELATIONS WITH PRODUCERS WHO ULTIMATELY SUPPLY 99 PERCENT OF JAPAN'S PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS.
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